

Nebraska Wheat Board
Meeting Minutes - November 3, 2017
Nebraska Innovation Campus Board Room
Lincoln, Nebraska

Board Members Present

Bob Delsing – Hemingford
Rick Larson – Potter
Larry Flohr – Chappell
Kent Lorens – Stratton
Von Johnson – Cambridge
Mark Knobel – Fairbury
Brent Robertson – Elsie

Staff Present

Royce Schaneman
Caroline Brauer
Pam Wurdeman
Eleanor Aufdenkamp, NBW Ambassador

Ex – Officio

Jeff Noel – UNL
Dr. Michael Boehm - UNL

Guests

P. Stephen Baenziger – UNL
Hector Santiago – UNL
Jeff Noel – Husker Genetics – UNL
Brad Roth – NUtech Ventures
Janice Cooper – Wheat Marketing Center
Dave Green – Wheat Quality Council
Steve Roth – Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Renee Tichota – Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Christina Barber – Nebraska Department of Agriculture

The Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair, Brent Robertson. The Open Meetings Act was made available. Roll call was taken with crop reports provided by each Board member. All Board members were present.

The Board reviewed the agenda. Royce Schaneman indicated no check-off compliance (audits) were completed since the last meeting, and therefore, no report was available.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mark Knobel and seconded by Von Johnson. Voice vote; motion carried.

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the August 16, 2017 Nebraska Wheat Board Meeting. **Von Johnson moved to approve the minutes; Bob Delsing seconded. Voice vote; motion carried.**

The Board reviewed the financial reports as Royce presented the information. It was noted by Christina Barber that the Department of Agriculture failed to change Pam Wurdeman’s funding source and NDA has been paying her salary since her move to the NWB in April. The error was discovered and has been corrected. This correction is noted in the October expenditures report. The Board discussed the cost of the NWB office space in the Nebraska State Office Building and possible alternatives. There was also discussion of a possible “revamping” of the floor space on the 4th Floor of the Nebraska State Office Building and how that might affect the NWB’s offices.

After discussion was completed, **Bob Delsing moved to approve the financial reports; Larry Flohr seconded. Voice vote; motion carried.**

Christina Barber read a memo from the Governor addressed to all Agencies, Boards and Commissions, Code and Non-Code, concerning the current budget outlook for FY17-18 and FY18-19. All state agencies are to be prepared for a 1% budget allotment reduction adjustment, if needed. The Board expressed concerns of how this related to the NWB as their funding is cash funding collected from check-off funds. Ms. Barber could not explicitly answer these concerns.

Bob Delsing reported on his attendance at the U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) meeting. Kent Lorens detailed the Food Aid Committee's meeting which also was held during the USW meeting. Royce commented on the USW meeting, adding that the U.S. Wheat Associates' Chairman, Mike Miller, is asking each member state to provide a list of their state's concerns and challenges. Even though not all states will have the same challenges, there will be some overlap and USW will attempt to address these. Royce reported that he has been appointed as Vice Chair to a newly organized USW Transportation Committee. Royce also mentioned that he e-mailed the Board Members the Transportation Committee's presentation from that meeting.

Von Johnson gave an update on his recent meeting at the Wheat Marketing Center. He reported that the remodeled entry-way is impressive, with new and interactive displays. He also indicated that the condition of the facilities is good, with the building recently receiving a new roof. Ms. Janice Cooper provided additional information about the remodeled entry-way.

Larry Flohr discussed points of interest from the Plains Grains Inc. (PGI) meeting he attended preceding the National Association of Wheat Growers' October meeting in Charleston, SC. He indicated that they are working on developing a marketing statement for PGI and, like so many other organizations, are determining how to do more with less.

Royce introduced Dave Green, the new Executive Vice President of the Wheat Quality Council. Mr. Green spoke of Nebraska's importance as a member of the Wheat Quality Council and his appreciation to the NWB for inviting him to attend the meeting and meet the Board members and discuss common issues and concerns.

Jeff Noel reported on foundation seed sales, which are at an all-time low, with only 1,030 bags being sold. Rain delayed wheat planting, which is the latest planting in recent memory.

Hector Santiago spoke of the open extension position for Eastern Nebraska. He also discussed the proposed building addition to the Research / Extension Center. The new space will allow space for a "typing" facility.

Dr. Baenziger discussed some new varieties and the increased interest in Triticale. Royce introduced Dr. Michael Boehm, Institute of Agriculture and National Resources (IANR) Vice Chancellor. Dr. Boehm invited the NWB members and staff to attend the upcoming summit: "Growing Nebraska: Leveraging Partnerships, Programming and Research" on November 8, 2017 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. The event is sponsored by the IANR and will address critical issues in Nebraska and motivate individuals to join together to find sustainable solutions, while thinking globally and acting locally. Dr. Boehm spoke of the importance of the long-term relationship between the NWB and the University of Nebraska's

research programs, and the need to continue to foster this relationship and for the University to be transparent and forthcoming with information regarding NWB sponsored research. He also spoke about the upcoming \$8.5 million in legislative cuts to the university's budget.

Lunch was served at 12:00 noon. During this time a brief tour of Innovation Campus was conducted for those interested in attending and Dr. Brad Roth, President of NUtech Ventures, addressed questions from Board members and NWB staff.

Following lunch, Mike Miller with US Wheat Associates provided an update on the role of wheat exports currently from Nebraska and the U.S. as well as the impact freight rates are having on exports.

Dave Green presented to the board about the efforts of the Wheat Quality Council and what the organization is doing to improve quality of wheat and how the various sectors of the industry have a role in that quality improvement.

The board discussed the pros and cons of doing a reception networking event in conjunction with the winter wheat conference in Washington, DC. Board directed staff to pursue holding another networking reception with the 2018 Winter Wheat Conference.

Randon Peters provided an update on efforts and activities of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association, including participation in the Fall Wheat Conference in Charleston, efforts on Farm Bill and federal farm policy, use of the baking lab by Ardent for an event in Las Vegas and a preview of the upcoming NWGA annual meeting to be held in Lincoln in January.

Janice Cooper presented to the board on the efforts of the Wheat Marketing Center to develop new entry displays, rebranding the organization with development of a new website and increasing social media presence.

The board discussed the upcoming travel calendar and added the following dates: WFC meeting January 17-20 in Scottsdale, AZ; NWB meeting will be held February 20-21 in Lincoln, NE in conjunction with Bake & Take; add a PGI April 30 in Manhattan, KS; November 8 for a UNL planning meeting in Lincoln. March 22, WMC meeting in Portland. **Rick moved to approve the calendar as amended; Larry seconded. Roll Call vote: Bob, yes; Rick, yes; Larry, yes; Kent, yes; Von, yes; Mark, yes; Brent, yes. 7 yes-0 no, motion carried.**

Mark moved to adjourn; Kent seconded. Voice vote, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.